

1-6-1849

Letter from James Gurley to James B. Finley

James Gurley

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Missouri

Quincy

Rev J B Finley

Columbus

Ohio

James Smith
James Smith
James Smith
James Smith

Wyandotte Indian Territory
Jan'y 6th 1849

Rev J B Finley

Dear Brother, It was with much
much regret that I had to pass through Columbus
and even leave Ohio, without either seeing
you or receiving any communication from you
although for that purpose I waited in Cincinnati
a few days longer than I otherwise should.

Your letter however, ^{to} the Brethren here which
was duly received before my arrival answered all
necessary purposes. And I met with a most cor-
dial reception from them. You will have learned be-
fore this time, that a division had taken place in
the society. Nearly all the old officiating adheres
with us, And we may now count in round numbers
one hundred, embracing as I am told the most pious
of the membership. While our Leaders say the southern
division cannot possibly have more than fifty
although they claim to have more. I have received
the most courteous treatment from all, except the
southern preachers, who are determined to extend none
of an official character. And as the ground of
all their repulsive measures they refer to the
"ill treatment" of their Delegate by the late General
Conference, And our "Outrage upon their rights," by
violating the conditions of the Plan, in sending, oppe-
ratives, into their limits. They have possession of
the Mission property and are not willing that

that we should even occupy the Meeting house alternately so that we have been compelled to hold our meetings in private houses, and then we are sometimes disturbed by drunken men who seem to be provided for the occasion, It is the undoubted opinion of our most intelligent Brethren here that the whole Society would have adhered with us if it had not been for the Slavery influence that has been created in the Nation since it has been under the religious supervision of the Church South, And if it had not been for the firm stand taken by our friends, against it, the proslavery influence would have been more extensive. This party sustained by the Southern preachers will seek to effect if possible my removal, through the Local Authorities of the Nation, which under its present organization may carry a majority against us. But they seem fearful of the result of such a movement, The Government Agents too have been led to take ground in opposition to us, and will no doubt make such representations to the Department at Washington as will be conformable to the views and wishes of the Church South. I have just forwarded to Bishop Morris, as extended a view of the whole case with the facts and prominent arguments connected with it as time and circumstances would allow, leaving it with him to say whether I shall remain or retire, As regards the adjacent tribes from all that I can learn the days of Southern

domination is numbered amongst them, The pious Indians have been much discouraged, There has not been much religious prosperity, It seems that true missionary work has been much neglected, While intemperance has been fearfully on the increase.

The Shawnees have sent me a pressing invitation to visit them, but I have thought it most prudent to decline for the present, The greatest obstacle to a permanent establishment of a mission here will be the expense, Rents and subsistence for a family will exceed the Cincinnati prices, While this point will be the great rendezvous for the Santa Fe, and Oregon trains. The mission will be an object of attraction to all Eastern and Northern travellers which will involve a mission family in unavoidable extra expense, As for myself I believe I should like the work and could do it, And am willing to continue or go home, as our authorities may judge best, The sky here looks quite squally just now, I think we have not reached the crisis though I had thought it was passed. Power all ways dies hard and there are indications of a powerful death struggle here yet, I improve every opportunity to exhort our people to be calm and prudent and to put their trust in the Lord, Your old friends here speak of you with much affectionate regard, Pray for us

Yours Respectfully &c
Jas Gurley

Probably Gurley